Clean Version of Amended Claims (4-6, 24, 26 and 28) and All Pending Claims (4-6 and 24-36):

2 4. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1 6, wherein the assembly further comprises a black color.

3 5. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1 6, wherein the assembly further comprises an oleophobic treatment.

1 6. A sound-transmissive protective cover assembly, consisting essentially of:

(a) at least one microporous membrane having an inner unbonded region and a periphery bonded region; and

(b) at least one adhesive support system,

said at least one membrane being bonded around its periphery to said at least one adhesive support system such that at least a portion of said inner unbonded region of the membrane is exposed to the atmosphere and free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz, wherein the assembly further comprises an acoustic gasket; and

wherein the acoustic gasket is bonded to and coextensive with the at least one adhesive support system so as to not impede independent movement of the membrane in the unbonded region.

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5 24. A sound-transmissive protective cover assembly, consisting essentially of:

(a) at least one microporous membrane having an inner unbonded region and a periphery bonded region; and

(b) a plurality of adhesive support systems,

said at least one membrane being bonded around its periphery to said plurality of adhesive support systems such that at least a portion of said inner unbonded region of the membrane is exposed to the atmosphere and free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz,, wherein said microporous membrane is supported by said adhesive support systems in a captive construction.

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25. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 24, wherein said cover assembly further comprises an acoustic gasket.

7 28. A method of using a microporous membrane as a sound-transmissive acoustic protective cover for an electronic device having a transducer, comprising:

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providing an assembly consisting essentially of a microporous membrane having first and second surfaces and a perimeter defined by its edges, at least one of said surfaces bonded to at least one adhesive support system to form a periphery bonded region surrounding an inner unbonded region of the microporous membrane such that said first and second surfaces of the inner unbonded region of said membrane are exposed to the atmosphere and free to move in response to acoustic energy; and

orienting said supported microporous membrane so as to cover the transducer in the electronic device, thereby forming a sound-transmissive acoustic protective cover;

whereby the cover has an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz.

27. The method claim 26, further comprising providing an oleophobic treatment on said microporous membrane.

28. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 6, wherein said adhesive support system further comprises at least one supplemental bonding site extending across a portion of said inner unbonded region.

29. A sound-transmissive cover assembly comprising:

a microporous membrane layer having first and second surfaces and a perimeter defined by its edges, at least one of said surfaces bonded to a support system to form a periphery bonded region surrounding an inner unbonded region of the microporous membrane, whereby said first and second surfaces of said inner unbonded region are exposed to the atmosphere and free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz.

30. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein said support system comprises at least one adhesive ring.

31. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein said support system comprises a plastic encapsulation.

32. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, further comprising means for bonding the assembly to an acoustic device.

33. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the assembly further comprises a black color.

34. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the assembly further comprises an oleophobic treatment.

35. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the assembly further comprises an acoustic gasket;

wherein the acoustic gasket is bonded to and coextensive with the at least one adhesive support system so as to not impede independent movement of the membrane in the inner unbonded region.

36. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the at least one membrane is ePTFE.